UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26715
9 November 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 9 NOVEMBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With regard to the 3 November 1993 letter (S/26690) from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia requesting an urgent meeting of the Security Council to address the situation in and around the town of Vares in central Bosnia, in accordance with instructions from my Government, I wish to inform you of the seriously deteriorating situation in yet another Bosnian Croat enclave in the same region: Vitez.

The area of Vitez, the largest Bosnian Croat enclave in central Bosnia, is seriously threatened by the Bosnian Muslim armed forces. We have received reports of high military activity by the Bosnian Muslim army in that area where two Bosnian Croat villages, Zabrdje and Jelike, on the outskirts of Vitez have already been overrun, and their residents have been expelled. Presently, more than 40,000 refugees, mostly Bosnian Croats, are living in deplorable conditions inside Vitez. The ethnic cleansing of this enclave by the Bosnian Muslim forces would create a grave humanitarian catastrophe, and would bring about a serious deterioration of the balance in the region.

The Bosnian Croat authorities have noted the existence of an ammunition factory in Vitez, the biggest in the region. The destruction of this factory due to the continuation of the Bosnian Muslim army attacks on the city could threaten the security of the city and its inhabitants.

Further to our 3 November 1993 request (S/26690) for an urgent meeting of the Security Council, we respectfully urge the members of the Council to address this imminent humanitarian tragedy in and around Vitez.

I would ask for your kind assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir DROBNJAK
Charge d'affaires a.i.